



# MEMBERS EXCHANGE

Publication of the American Medalllic Sculpture Association  
Web site: <http://www.amsamedals.org> Email: [info@amsamedals.org](mailto:info@amsamedals.org)

Spring 2006, Volume 19, Number 2

## My Fellow AMSA Members:

Well, it's officially spring! It's a new time of the year to clean house and think about the renewal of life that the season traditionally signifies. All of those fertility symbols associated with Easter come to mind. Right now it seems like a transitional season, moving into spring but not quite there yet. Kurt Vonnegut referred to this time of year as 'unlocking'. Things are starting to happen in nature, but there's still some hesitation.

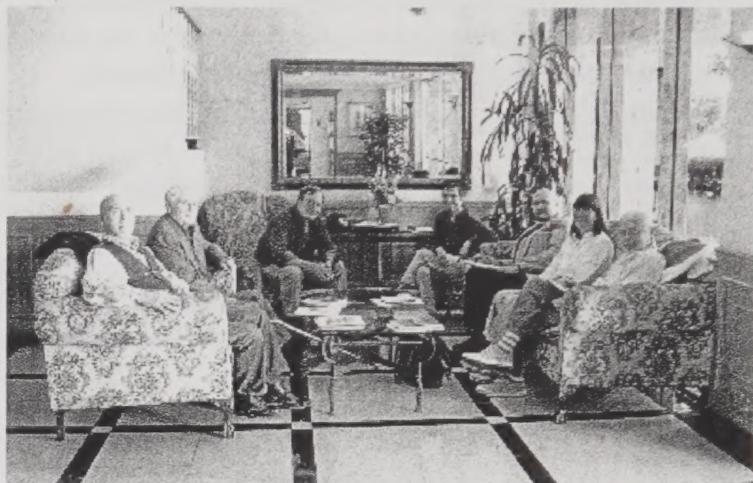
As mentioned in our last newsletter, our annual meeting hatched an idea of doing a new AMSA medal. Mel Wacks had suggested a few themes but in the end we decided to keep the concept open to whatever members' thoughts suggested.

There will be a design competition open to all members in good standing for a medal to be issued this year. The submission of entries will be on display at the ANA convention in Denver, August 16-19 of this year.

Submissions should be in a flatwork format. Either designs as drawings or photographs of dimensional pieces. We all have different ways of working, but as long as the end product of your thoughts can be placed in an envelope, you're in for the judging.

The medal chosen by the jury will be an AMSA cast medal and be offered for sale to the general public. Since collectors tend to prefer cast pieces we have decided to go this route to accommodate their needs and have castings done as needed. This allows AMSA to create a new medal and not commit ourselves to the costs of engraving and striking that would be the result of a struck medal.

We're still working on the jurors which should be an "expert" jury, ie artists, AMSA members, mature collectors and someone from the AMSA board. Submissions will be handled by one of our board members and should be mailed to AMSA,



AMSA members meeting Fullerton, CA. last November. Clockwise from left: Eugene Daub, John Svenson, Bill and Geri Gould, Jim Licaretz, Anne-Lise Deering and Mel Wacks.

P.O. Box 1201 Edmonds, WA 98020 and needs to reach us before July 31st to be copied for display at the ANA convention in Denver Aug 16th.

Nothing seems to be happening regarding our appeal for members to assist on the creation of the new directory. So far Mark Benvenuto is the only one that has volunteered to work on it and he needs help to put this together so we'll proceed at whatever pace the few of us working on this project can provide. This will probably take a bit of time, so again, get your information ready: bios and photos. GOOD photos! This is your work that is being seen, so take time to make the images good. You should all know how to light your work and how to process images with software if needed. This isn't rocket science but getting a good visual is paramount when displaying your work in a brochure.

FIDEM will be here in '07 so think about what you're going to submit for that venue! It may be well over a year away, but we all know how time does indeed fly and how all of a sudden we're thinking: "I'd better get that cast for the show!"

..... Jim Licaretz, AMSA president

**More about the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture:**

Dear Friends,

Well we have certainly produced a buzz about the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture. As a result of our discussion about the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture, the ANA asked me to form a new selection committee and to revamp the criteria.

Unfortunately this newsletter was not ready to reach our members before the deadline but remember this for next year.

1. Nominations must be received by April 1st by Susan McMillan, American Numismatic Association, 818 No. Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 or email [mcmillan@money.org](mailto:mcmillan@money.org).  
Don't send to Mel Wacks.

2. Nominees must be alive and hopefully will be able to personally accept the award at the ANA Convention in Denver on Saturday night, August 19. The Highland Mint will give the winner \$500 to assist with traveling costs if he or she attends.

3. Nominations should include the name of the nominee, ANA number (if a member), address, contact information, a brief biography, a list of commissions and honors received, and photographs of at least five medals - or Internet addresses where they can be viewed. Nominators should include their addresses and contact information; artists may nominate themselves.

**4. Nominees must not have won before.**

Previous winners were (in alphabetical order):  
Abram Belskie, Garrett Burke, John Cook, Eugene Daub, Donald De Lue, Don Everhart II, James Ferrell, Frank Gasparro, Edward Grove, Adlai Hardin, Virginia Janssen, Paul Jennewein, Anthony Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Marcel Jovine, Mico Kaufman, Joseph Kiselewski, Ron Landis, Gertrude Lathrop, Bruno Mankowski, Chester Martin, Ralph Menconi, John Mercanti, Philip Nathan, Dora de Pedery-Hunt, Hal Reed, Gilroy Roberts, Thomas Rogers Sr., Alex Shagin, Marika Somogyi, Edward Steever IV, Patricia Verani, Paul Vincze, Robert Weinman, Gerta Wiener, Karen Worth.

The committee that will choose the honoree consists of myself; David Alexander, one of the founders of Medal Collectors of America; Richard Doty, Ph.D., curator of coins at the Smithsonian Institution; Cory Gilliland, Ph.D., the U.S. representative to FIDEM; Jim Licaretz, president of AMSA; Doug Mudd, ANA curator of exhibitions; Mashiko Nakashima, medallic art gallery owner; Donald Scarinci, medallic art collector; and Alan Stahl, Ph.D., curator of numismatics at Princeton University.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

Mel

**Treasurer's report,  
Jan 1-April 24- 06**

**ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE**

Income	
Membership Dues	630.00
Total Income	630.00
Expense	
Reimbursed association expenses	912.78
Total Expense	912.78
Net Ordinary Income	-282.78
Net Income	-282.78

Apr 24, 06

**ASSETS**

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Key Bank Checking	11,197.93
Total Checking/Savings	11,197.93
Total Current Assets	11,197.93
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>11,197.93</b>

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	8,350.50
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	3,130.21
Net Income	-282.78
Total Equity	11,197.93
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>11,197.93</b>

***From Stephen Scher, who thought the following might be of interest to our members:***

This year at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, held in San Francisco between 23-25 March, there were three sessions of papers devoted to the Renaissance medal. The organizer was Professor Arne Flaten of Coastal Carolina University and the chair was Professor Charles Rosenberg of the University of Notre Dame. The papers were all given on Thursday, 23 March – 06 and were as follows:

Dr. Stephen K. Scher, Metropolitan Museum of Art: Reggio Emilia and the Mannerist Medal in Italy;

Professor Raymond Waddington, University of California, Davis: Breaking News: Representing the Other on Portrait Medals;

Professor Joanna Woods-Marsden, University of California, Los Angeles: Medallic and Painted Portraits of Isabella d'Este;

Philip Attwood, The British Museum: Medals as Gifts in Sixteenth Century Italy;

Professor Maarten Delbeke, Ghent University: Medallic Histories and Papal Historiography: Two of a Kind?

Professor James G. Harper, University of Oregon: Pocket Propaganda: The Functions of Papal Annual Medals;

Professor Eugene J. Dwyer, Kenyon College: A Presentation Copy of Hubert Goltzius's "Lebendige Bilder Gar Nach Aller Keysern" for Maximilian King of Bohemia;

Professor Brian W. Ogilvie, University of Massachusetts, Amherst: Ezechiel Spanheim's Medallic Archive;

Professor John Cunnally, Iowa State University: Dirhems Among the Denarii: Collecting Islamic Coins by Renaissance Antiquarians.

Further descriptions and abstracts of these papers are available.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen K. Scher

**Open competition for art medal to be issued by AMSA.**

**Submit images, drawings or photos by July 31. 2006.**

**Send to AMSA, P.O Box 1201, Edmonds, WA 98020.**

**AMSA is having a design competition open to all members in good standing for a medal to be issued this year.**

The submission of entries will be on display at the ANA convention in Denver, August 16-19 of this year.

Submissions should be in a flatwork format, either designs as drawings or photographs of dimensional pieces. We all have different ways of working, but as long as the end product of your thoughts can be placed in an envelope, you're in for the judging.

Please be sure to send only copies of your designs and not your originals.

The medal chosen by the jury will be an AMSA cast medal and be offered for sale to the general public. Since collectors tend to prefer cast pieces we have decided to do a cast medal and have castings done as needed. This allows AMSA to create a new medal at an affordable cost and not commit ourselves to the costs of engraving and striking a medal.

We're still working on the jurors which should be an "expert" jury, ie artists, AMSA members, mature collectors and someone from the AMSA board.

Submissions will be handled by one of the board members.

## Nominations needed !!

It's that time of the year again that we need nominations for officers for the coming year, beginning July 1-06.

We are very happy that Dick Bonham has volunteered to be nominating chair and if you like to be more involved with our group please get in touch with him.

His e-mail address is: rbonham@ptd.net  
Phone: 570-524-5802

## Reminder... MEMBERS DIRECTORY ONLINE !

All AMSA members are invited to submit photographs of their medalllic work to be included in the members' directory on the website. All members who wish to be listed will be included as long as they provide us with images of their art. Those who have already sent us photographs of their work are not required to do so again, unless they wish to show a different image. Photos will be published on the website as thumbnails accompanying authors' names. Photos should be mailed to AMSA's webmaster Enrique Moreiro, preferably by email to: amsaonline@yahoo.es or by U.S Postal Service, if you only have paper copies, to: Enrique S. Moreiro, Calle Santa Isabel 50, 2-6 Int. 28012 Madrid, SPAIN. Digital images should be sent in JPEG format, at 72 dpi if possible.

## AMSA's advertising policy.

We are accepting ads in the Members Exchange !!

### Each AMSA member gets one free "1 inch" ad per year.

Each additional "1 inch" ad for a member is \$5.

Business card ad is \$8 per issue or \$32 per year/4 issues.

Non-members may run a "1 inch" ad for a flat fee of \$10/ issue.

A one inch ad may have about 40-50 words and be a maximum of 6 lines long.

For commercial businesses:

A half-page business ad is \$100 for the year/ 4 issues. A quarter-page business ad is \$60 per year/ 4 issues.

*Tel. 401 781 6076*

*Fax: Same*



*E-Mail:*

*browncasting@aol.com*

*C. A. Brown, Inc.  
315 Wellington Avenue  
Cranston, R.I. 02910*



*A Fine Arts Foundry Since 1946*

**Checkout Our New Website-<http://www.browncasting.com>**

*Precision Investment Castings of*

- *Small Sculpture, Medals, Bas'Reliefs,*
- *Hardware, Jewelry, Etc..*
- *Alloys Cast- Bronze, Brass, Pewter,*
- *Sterling Silver, Karat Golds*

*Rubber Mold And Wax Making*

*Metal Tooling*

*Size Range : 1/16" Ultra-Thin*

*Up To 24" And More*

*Rapid Prototyping Services*

*Available*

## Letters and inquiries from the website and to the PO Box

### This from a woman setting up a website to honor her father, sculptor Frank Eliscu .

" I am the daughter of noted sculptor, Frank Eliscu who did many medals for a variety of organizations in the 60's and 70's.

I am developing a website as a historical reference to his work and am trying to track down information on all the medals that he designed. I found your website but do not see any archive information. If you can be of help I would let you know which of his medals I seek information on, and in return I can offer you some interesting original sketches done for a variety of medals.

see: <http://frankeliscu.com>

Norma Eliscu Banas, Ed.D.



Hello Anne-Lise Deering,

How are you? Did the Pin make it into your publication. Well I cannot find a copy of the exact Pin or even a Medal. I did however get a picture of a Commerative from 1810. It has differences, the written words are different because of the Francis 11 on mine, in the other one in the picture it is Francis 1, I cannot see the Medals on Napoleon and Francis Chest ,the date 1813 is really throwing everyone off. I found a makers name HEURT'AUX there is a dot but my computer will not do that. I think this is really rare. Do you think people will write to me.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Thank You and Have A Nice Day.

Peace,

Debra e-mail: [lionflower@cox.net](mailto:lionflower@cox.net)

From the letters to the website it looks like many collectors think we are a company producing medals. Perhaps the old group "Society of Medalists" linger in some people's mind?  
\*\*\*\*\*

I was tying to get some information about medal coins that I have purchased, made by your company. The coins were made for the 25th anniversary of Israel, symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel. I would like to know where I can obtain more information about it, such as value, name of the artist etc...

Best regards

Waiting for an answer,

Haim Sherrf

-----  
5775 Victoria Ave, Suite 220  
Montreal, Quebec H3W 2R4  
Tel : (514) 738-1988  
Haim Sherrf <[sherrf@sympatico.ca](mailto:sherrf@sympatico.ca)>

\*\*\*\*\*

I work for the Crystal Cathedral in California. I was hoping you could help. A long time ago we had some medal-lions struck for us and I was hoping this was the company who handled it. Could you tell me if we have an account there or not? It could be under Robert Schuller... Crystal Cathedral Ministries....or Hour of Power.

Would you have us on file? Would you please call me at the number below?

Irene Georgudios  
Hour of Power Ministry  
[ireneg@crystalcathedral.org](mailto:ireneg@crystalcathedral.org)  
(714) 971-4358 Direct Line  
(714) 971-4253 Fax

### Coin World article on AMSA.

Recently a letter came from a collector that does not communicate with e-mail as he does not have a computer.

He got his information from Coin World magazine that had a very good article from our "Members Exchange" where it covered Daniel Carr's Apollo medal in addition to other news. This man wanted very much like to purchase one of the medals and asked me to forward his letter to Daniel.

Thanks to "Coin World" for the publicity of getting AMSA's name out there to collectors.

**Dear FIDEM Member and Future Member,**

The ANA is beginning to plan for the next FIDEM Congress. The dates will be Wednesday September 19 through Saturday September 22, 2007. Registration will begin the day before on Tuesday, September 18. The after trip to Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico, both wonderful art centers, will run from Saturday, September 23 to Wednesday September 26, 2007. They expect to have the after trip end in Denver because that is an easier departure point for international travelers.

The Congress will be held at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. ANA, the host organization, is making all of the arrangements for rooms, entertainment and other facilities. FIDEM/USA will work with ANA to arrange for lectures and workshops. This leads me to ask you to please let me know what kind of workshops you would like to have during this Congress. Hopefully some of you might offer to conduct a session. I would also like to know as soon as possible if you would like to deliver a lecture at the Congress.

The theme of this years Congress will be "Passages to Reconstruction". Looking to a better world this theme remembers all of the destruction of the past few years such as Hurricane Katrina, the tsunami in Indonesia, the earthquakes in Pakistan, the war in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq, the bombing in Spain and the riots in France. All of these are matters about which medalists have something to say.

ANA wants to have our medals no later than January 31, 2007 so that they can photograph them and prepare the catalog. That means that medals will have to be submitted to us for judging before the end of December 2006. I will let you know the exact date and other details on this as soon as possible.

There will also be a competition for the FIDEM Congress medal. This medal will be produced by ANA and will be given to each person who registers to attend the FIDEM Congress.

Please be thinking about your medals and do make plans to come to the Congress. It will be great fun and rewarding. I will send you updates as more information becomes available. Let me hear from you.

Cory

## Museu Joaquim Correia

<http://museujoaquimcorreia.home.sapo.pt/meda.htm> Museu Joaquim Correia

Here are some examples of medals that are on their website. These all look like cast bronze.



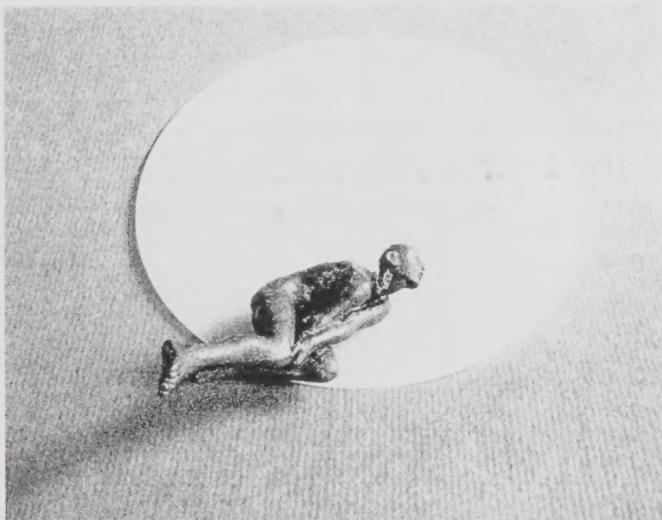
500 years discoveries



Christmas



Homage to the vidreiros



### Congratulations to Monica Guevara !

This winter she was pleasantly surprised when she got the announcement that she had won the IV International Biennial of Contemporary Medal Art Medal – Seixal MARINHA GRANDE CITY COUNCIL / JOAQUIM CORREIA MUSEUM PRIZE with her medal “Loneliness”. Joaquim Correia is a well known Portuguese sculptor and was for several years the director of Fine Arts Faculty, University of Lisbon. The Museum is at Marinha Grande. Please check the internet site of Marinha Grande City Council: <http://www.cm-m grande.pt/> and

Joaquim Coerreia Museum  
<http://www.museujoaquimcorreia.home.sapo.pt/>



Oeiras



Traveling Shepherd

## Report on Mike Keropian's medal workshop on April 14th and 15th .

The medal workshop held by Mike Keropian on April 14th and 15th was a success with six quite happy participants from an architect to medallists.



Clay Work

Students at the Medal Workshop at Art Life Studio in Portchester, New York came in with their 6 inch diameter designs for a medal.



Pouring Plaster

They then transferred the drawings onto a plaster dish and modeled the designs in clay.

After the designs were worked in clay they proceeded to pour a plaster mold of their designs and work the lettering and detailing in the negative plasters.



Modifying Needle Files



Checking out the first cast.



Positives and Negatives

Check Mike Keropian's website: <http://www.keropiansculpture.com>

## The First Semester: A Medallic Sculpture Course

### From Mashiko:

*"The first Medallic Sculpture Course was offered in the 2006 Spring Semester at The University of the Arts, Philadelphia (U. Arts). Students will receive 1.5 credits the 3 hour class that meets once a week. Medallic sculpture was introduced to the U. Arts community through the exhibition series, NEW IDEAS IN MEDALLIC SCULPTURE, in 1998. I have been teaching a stone carving course at the university since 1995. Along with curating the NEW IDEAS exhibitions, I gave private instruction in medallic sculpture through my stone carving course. This lead students to sign up for independent study with me for the purpose of studying the medallic arts, and further developed a need to create an official medallic sculpture course. I used to name my independent study, an unofficial medallic sculpture course. Since, in one year, there were 5 students signed up. It took me almost a decade to actualize the dream to establish a credited medallic sculpture course at U. Arts.*

*When applying for the establishment of this class, in the New Course Application Form, I explained : The existing sculpture courses do not provide minutely nuanced treatment of materials. Also, students will become aware of marketing, including pursuing commissions from organizations in various fields. These are aspects of their future professional involvement.*

*The course has started with maximum enrollment. There are 12 students- one Graduate, four Craft, one Printmaking, and six Sculpture Majors. The course begins with an introduction of a very brief medallic art history, starting in monetary coins among different civilizations, to medallions. Contemporary medallic art is presented with visual examples including : Pisanello as the father of contemporary medal, followed by mostly American medals from the 19th and 20th Century, and various techniques of medal making. The first assignment was a self-portrait in bas-relief, with the face on the obverse and the description oneself with text and visual images on the reverse.*

### *The reason for creating a self-portrait:*

*Traditionally, medals were commissioned by a celebrity for their portrait on the obverse side of the medal. On the reverse, artists symbolized the obverse figures' social status, accomplishments, state of mind, or personality, as well as their expectations. The students can analyze his/her face anatomically on the obverse. And on the reverse, students learn how to analyze and visualize their state of mind. Lettering is part of the design.*

*The students have chosen comfortable materials to create the bas relief, such as plaster block, wood and stone engraving, to classical clay and plasticine modeling. After modeling the initial bas relief, they learned the rubber molding making process followed by wax pouring and chasing. At this moment, we are waiting for the bronze pouring schedule. By the end of this semester, they will complete the bronze chasing and patination. After the first work is completed, students explore other materials and artistic expressions accordingly. Conceptually, they are encouraged to keep self analyzing as their theme.*

*The most of students are on the process of the third project, except one students who is on the finishing process of his 5th project.*

*All the work will be included in the exhibition, NEW IDEAS IN MEDALLIC SCULPTURE 2006-2007.*

*On many occasions I have heard comments that medallic art is not of interest to the young generations, especially in this country, because they are not interested in learning conventional processes, and techniques related with disciplined fine arts. This opinion was applied to my stone carving course in the past as well. However, under the demand of the students, I have taught this course for twenty consecutive semesters. The 12 students in the current Medallic Sculpture Course are eager to learn techniques related to creating medallic art, which involve much more detailed and strict discipline. They have requested the course be extend to 6 hours, and 3 credits for the next Spring Term. This proves that the young generation is seeking to learn and carry the traditional disciplined technique. I will be making an extended course proposal to the U. Arts Sculpture Department this semester.*

*During the course, the reading materials, which include medallic art exhibition catalogues, MEDAL Magazine, AMSA Newsletters, are readily available as reference. The FIDEM and AMSA organizations have been properly introduced, and all of them are enthusiastic for the opportunity to exhibit their work in the international medal community."*

*Mashiko Nakashima*

*Master Lecturer : The University of the Arts, Philadelphia*

*Director : /New Approach/, Inc.*

*Media ... Rack and Hamper Gallery*

MEMBERS' NEWS



**Janet Indick**

Janet Indick was awarded a commission to create 8 sculptural medallions for the Diabetes Foundation of New Jersey this year. These unique medallic awards mounted on marble bases will be given out each year to doctors who do outstanding work in the field of Diabetics. The size of each of the bronze awards mounted on marble is 7 inches, x 6 inches x 3/4 inches deep.

Janet Indick's other medallic art works have been on exhibit throughout the year in the Kergma Gallery in Ridgewood, NJ.



Upcoming exhibition at Medalia Gallery.  
**EXPRESSIVE GESTURE : LEONDA FINKE**  
A Medallic Sculpture Retrospective with  
Drawings and Sculpture  
Please join us at the book signing party and closing  
reception at Medalia Gallery  
Saturday - May 27 - 3:00 - 6:00pm



**Two new medals by Daniel Carr**

Above

Denver Mint centennial token/medal (brass and silver)

Below

Fort Collins Colorado Coin Club 50th Anniversary  
medal (brass and silver)

Please Check the website to view  
<http://www.dc-coin.com/index.aspPageAction=VIEWCATS&Category=4>





### Jim Licaretz

Jim Licaretz created the latest medal in the Jewish American Hall of Fame series that features Second World War hero Lt. Col. Robert 'Rosie' Rosenthal.

The medal shows Rosenthal briefing the 418th Squadron crew in 1943 before they boarded their B-17 bomber at Thorpe Abbotts, East Anglia,

England, the base of the 100th Bomb Group. Rosenthal enlisted in the U.S. army the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked and flew fifty-two combat missions. The medal's design is based on a painting by Gil Cohen depicting Rosenthal and his crew. For more information contact the: Jewish- American Hall of Fame 5189 Jeffdale Ave. Woodland Hills, CA 91364. E-mail [numismel@aol.com](mailto:numismel@aol.com).



### Jeanne Steven-Sollman

On April 11, 2006 Salman Rushdie was presented the first Award of Distinction for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts and Humanities in Schwab Auditorium at The

Pennsylvania State University. The medal, designed by Stevens-Sollman, was commissioned by the Institute for the Arts and Humanities and will be awarded annually.

Stevens-Sollman was also commissioned to design a memorial medal for Chloe Ann Calder Dellaport that past away a year ago.

Chloe was Jeanne's studio partner for 25 years.

The bronze edition of 27 commemorates Chloe's life as an artist. She was a former AMSA and FIDEM member; along with her husband Lou, she was a student of John Cook. A copy of the medal is in the permanent collection of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.



On the right:  
Birmingham Historical  
Museum .

The Museum Crew in  
front of the Museum.

On the left:  
Leslie Mio, museum  
assistant

### New exhibit possibility at the Birmingham museum.



Since the last newsletter, Mark Benvenuto who was in charge of the show at the Padded Cell has been approached by Leslie Mio, Museum Assistant at Birmingham Historical Museum & Park about their interest in hosting a show of AMSA members medallic work next year, in February to May 2007, giving us a year to plan and promote the show to our members and throughout the area to attract visitors and buyers.

The historic house, (part of Henry Ford Greenfield Village) would be a marvelous place for a show with the kind of atmosphere to attract potential collector that might want to purchase our artwork.

The original resident in Birmingham, John W. Hunter, owned a foundry and the museum have a number of cast medallions designed by Marshall Fredericks, who also lived in Birmingham.

The museum would like to produce a catalog with a contact for purchasing the items and next year would have the budget to co-produce postcards and other materials.

To check out the museum please click links to see cases with exhibits installed:

<http://www.ci.birmingham.mi.us/home/index.asp?page=626>

For more information contact

Leslie Mio, Museum Assistant

Birmingham Historical Museum & Park "Where the Southfield Ends, Birmingham's History Begins"

556 W. Maple Birmingham, Michigan 48009

Phone: 248.642.2817 Fax: 248.642.5551

E-mail: lmio@ci.birmingham.mi.us



**Heidi Wastweet's**  
recent commission for Stanford University.  
The Stanford Medal will be introduced for the  
first time in the Spring of 2006.  
The spirit and the purpose of this award is to  
honor volunteer leaders who have given 20  
years of distinguished and significant service  
to Stanford University."

## Collecting and Appreciating Contemporary Art Medals

### Part 2: Information through auctions

(This is the second article in a series on collecting art medals)

By Donald Scarinci

Auctions are a wonderful source of information for most collectibles. For medals, auctions are often the only reference materials available.

You cannot assemble a library on contemporary medallic art without a good selection of auction catalogs from Presidential Coin & Antique Company (PCAC) or the Simmons Gallery. Along with E-bay and a precious few dealers, these are not just the only ongoing source for learning about contemporary art medals, but they are the only source for buying them.

Even though Joe Levine (571-321-2121 or [JLevine968@aol.com](mailto:JLevine968@aol.com)) has recently closed his retail store in Virginia, he still shows medals to customers at his home office by appointment and he still operates the most active table at several national coin shows.

Even with the popularity of EBay, his auctions still bring the strongest prices for medals and every serious medals collector in the United States is on his mailing list.

Levine's auction catalogs contain information only available from Joe Levine's lifetime of research and accumulated knowledge about medals. His 74<sup>th</sup> auction sale just occurred on December 10, 2005. While the thrust of his catalogs dating to the early 1990's are mostly historical medals and the classic art medals, his catalogs are well illustrated and always contain more than a few contemporary art medals.

Joe Levine was the heir to the vacuum left when Johnson & Jensen produced their last auction catalog in 1990. Dick Johnson, who is well known to anyone with even a passing interest in medallic art, began his auction company when he left the Medallic Art Company in 1978. A complete set of J&J catalogs is a must have for any medals serious collector.

It should be mentioned that Dick Johnson is finishing up his magnum opus, a catalog of American artists and their work.

It will be the single most important reference book since "the Biographical Dictionary of Medalists" by L. Forrer which was published in 1904 by Spink & Sons in England. Any artist who has not been in touch with Dick Johnson to give him a list of their work needs to do so immediately. Once this book is published it will become the standard catalog of American medals and will not likely be duplicated for another hundred years.

The Simmons Gallery located in London, England has also closed its retail store, but Francis and Howard Simmons continue to show medals to collectors in their home office as well. Everyone should be familiar with their website: <http://www.simmonsgallery.co.uk/>. It usually features a mail bid sale which is also sent in hard copy to their mailing list, that has a nice selection of contemporary art medals with very useful information and photographs of them.

So why do I go from the serious scholarship of Joe Levine, Dick Johnson and the Simmons' to EBay as a source of information? While not all of the information in the descriptions of EBay auction lots are accurate or reliable, much of it is generated by collectors who collect information as prodigiously as they collect medals. More often then not, collectors do not publish the information they collect until they are ready to sell their medals.

While E-bay is a relatively new method for buying and selling just about anything, the section for medals has done as much to expand the hobby as anything since the Franklin Mint's slick and expensive advertising promotions. Since most medals cost less then \$100, the electronic medium is the most cost effective way to sell them. Many collectors avail themselves of the opportunity to buy and sell and achieve the instant gratification that is unavailable elsewhere.

There are other auction catalogs that I could mention which contain an occasional contemporary art medal, but the three sources I selected for discussion have the highest concentration of this material.

A word of warning to the artists who are unaware of the resale value of their work—do not be discouraged when you look at market prices. The collector market for contemporary art medals is very thin and prices vary widely based upon the demand for a medal or a particular artist's work at any given time. Pricing and the market will be a future topic in this column.

**Newsletter editor:**

Anne-Lise Deering  
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Please send items of interest about yourself or events that you have attended that relate to news about the medal and medallic sculpture. This publication is for you, the members. Please send information in writing, preferably as e-mail and include photos if available.

**Please write bios in third person and limit your news to items related to medals, only !!**

Also please don't forget to send in your questions or answers to be included in the next newsletter.

**Deadline for the next newsletter is:**  
**June 30th 2006**

**REMEMBER AMSA MEMBERS DIRECTORY ON THE WEB**

**Don't forget to submit your material to the webmaster Enrique Moreiro. Note his new e-mail address:**  
**[amsaonline@yahoo.es](mailto:amsaonline@yahoo.es)**

**AMSA officers for 2005 - 06**

<b>President:</b> <a href="mailto:Idolls@earthlink.net">Idolls@earthlink.net</a>	<b>Jim Licaretz</b> Ph. 310-832-6993
<b>1st Vice President:</b> <a href="mailto:dieman@midsouth.rr.com">dieman@midsouth.rr.com</a>	<b>Ken Douglas</b> Ph. 662-342-1827
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<b>Secretary:</b> <a href="mailto:supermedal@verizon.net">supermedal@verizon.net</a>	<b>Anne-Lise Deering</b> Ph. 206-542-0608

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Richard Bonham	2007	<a href="mailto:rbonham@ptd.net">rbonham@ptd.net</a>
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**Advisors to the Board:**

Cory Gilliland	<a href="mailto:gilliland@artinthehand.com">gilliland@artinthehand.com</a>
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Jeanne Stevens-Sollman	<a href="mailto:stevsollmn@aol.com">stevsollmn@aol.com</a>
Marion Roller	Ph. 212-582-6411

**AMSA Membership application/renewal**

**Membership runs from Sept. 1, to Aug. 31.**

Enclosed is my check for \$35.00 annual AMSA dues in the US and Canada;  
\$20.00 for matriculated students (enclose a copy of the current ID card)

Enclosed is my check for \$45.00 annual dues outside the USA and Canada.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to further help AMSA reach its goals.

*I am an :*

*Artist*  *Sculptor*  *Dealer*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ *Collector*  *Producer /Supplier*

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ *Other* \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone (studio/work): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed application and payment in US Dollars to: American Medalllic Sculpture Association, (AMSA). To ensure receiving your newsletter send your dues to:

AMSA, PO. Box 1201, Edmonds, WA 98020



